

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
MOHAMMAD ZAFARANCHI,  
  
Defendant.

CASE NO. CR22-0122-JCC-1

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's motion to continue trial (Dkt. No. 115), which the Court GRANTS for the reasons explained below. Trial is continued to July 7, 2025.

Defendant is charged with Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, and Destruction of Records in a Federal Investigation. (Dkt. No. 1.) Trial is scheduled to begin February 24, 2025. (Dkt. No. 85.)

Defendant requests a continuance to sometime in July 2025. (*See* Dkt. No. 115; *see also* Dkt. No. 116 (waiver of speedy trial rights through July 31, 2025.)) Defendant indicates a continuance is necessary to allow him to engage in Ramadan, which begins February 28, 2025. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 115.) Defendant will be preparing for the religious event and fasting throughout its duration. (*Id.*) According to Defendant, this would impact his ability to meaningfully participate in his defense at trial, at least as it is presently scheduled. (*Id.*) Further,

1 due to conflicting trial calendars following Ramadan, current defense counsel are not again  
2 available until July. (*Id.*)

3 Based on the this, the Court FINDS as follows:

- 4 1. The failure to grant a continuance would deny defense counsel the reasonable time  
5 necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence,  
6 within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv), and would result in a miscarriage of  
7 justice within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(i). Moreover, to deprive  
8 Defendant of current defense counsels' services, given their familiarity with this case,  
9 would result in an injustice to Defendant. (*Id.*)
- 10 2. The additional time requested is necessary to provide Defendant the ability to  
11 meaningfully participate in his defense and would result in a reasonable delay.
- 12 3. Granting a continuance will serve the ends of justice, as it is necessary to ensure adequate  
13 time for case preparation, and the ends of justice served outweigh the best interests of the  
14 public and Defendant in a speedy trial. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A).

15 Accordingly, trial is CONTINUED to July 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The Court ORDERS that  
16 the time between the date of this order and the new trial date is excludable time under the Speedy  
17 Trial Act. The parties are DIRECTED to file a stipulation addressing remaining pretrial  
18 deadlines (and if unable to do so file a status report) within seven days of this order.

19 DATED this 31st day of December 2024.

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23 John C. Coughenour  
24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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